



Saint Ann Maronite Church

April 28th 2014

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

We write to you, not with a tone of negativity, but in the spirit of concern for the future financial well being of our spiritual and physical home of Saint Ann Maronite Church, which has given so much to generations of our families. She has been there in good times and in sad, she has been the comfort of our elderly and the foundation of our youth.

Simply put, Saint Ann Maronite Church cannot continue to exist if we are unable to provide a consistent stream of funding. This is neither to panic nor to overstate. It is the recognition that while the situation is serious, thanks be to God, it is salvageable...but only if we each take a small step, and one that is only within the relative means of each of our parishioners.

Many of you were so generous during our capital campaign. This is not a plea for significant donations as was that. This is simply a recognition that this great lady of Saint Ann never refuses your religious needs...Christenings, funerals, anointing of the sick, hospital visits, communion delivered to your loved ones, the gift of our culture, kind words and quiet prayers. Yet, many who are well able contribute little or nothing weekly to our parish. We believe firmly that many do not even realize the situation, and take for granted that, because our church is here, it will always be here. Perhaps, as adults, we feel we have given enough already. Perhaps as young adults, we default to the fact that our parents already give. These notions, coupled with the fact that our older parish membership is shrinking, have become a precarious spiral downward.

We commend Father Francis for being innovative in creating some revenue to offset our inability to pay our bills, such as rental on the church's apartments on Price Street and Sumner Avenue. We are also forced to use extraordinary income events, like the parish festival, not for their purpose of saving, but just to keep the lights on. Did you know that just 45 or 20% of our parishioners contribute 83% of the weekly donations, and therefore, alone sustain our parish? Did you know that some of our seniors contribute what would be minor to many of us in comparison to the blessings in our lives? Did you know that if each parishioner not currently supporting the parish contributed only \$10.00 weekly, we would be in good financial shape, and even be able to save for the future of our children and grandchildren?

We will endeavor over the coming weeks to educate each other as to how, without even noticing in our daily lives, we can take some of the money we throw away with little thought and bring our great parish of Saint Ann back to good financial health.

The choice will be yours. Whatever you decide to do or not, we are grateful to you and welcome you always as our fellow parishioners.

Sincerely,

Your Parish Stewardship Council

Michael J. Mackarey

Atty. Joseph C. Peters

G. David Wagner, Chair

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